

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 TRSE-00
/066 W

-----029297 052120Z /73

R 051950Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8302
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
JCS WASHDC
USMISSION USNATO
USNMR SHAPE
CINC EUR VAIHINGEN
CINC USAFE RAMSTEIN
CINC USAREUR HEIDELBERG

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 08415

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL, MILI, GW
SUBJECT: US PROBLEMS WITH THE GERMAN BUNDESPOST

REFERENCE: USCINCEUR 261523Z APR 78 (NOTAL)

BEGIN SUMMARY: THE AMBASSADOR HAS REQUESTED DEFENSE
MINISTRY SUPPORT IN FINDING AN ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION TO
THE PROBLEMS WHICH US FORCES ARE EXPERIENCING WITH THE
FRG BUNDESPOST. THE DEFENSE MINISTRY HAS INFORMED US
THAT ON APRIL 14 DEFENSE MINISTER APEL RAISED THESE
PROBLEMS WITH CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT AND URGED THAT THEY BE
CONSIDERED IN A POLITICAL AND MUTUAL DEFENSE CONTEXT.
THE DEFENSE MINISTRY MAY SEND AN OBSERVER TO THE
FORTHCOMING MEETINGS BETWEEN THE FRG AND THE SENDING
STATES ON THESE QUESTIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. ON MAY 3, THE AMBASSADOR SENT TO STATE SECRETARY
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SCHNELL OF THE DEFENSE MINISTRY AN EMBASSY-EDITED
VERSION OF A MEMORANDUM PREPARED BY EUCOM (SEE REFTTEL)
ON THE PROBLEMS WHICH US FORCES ARE ENCOUNTERING WITH
THE GERMAN BUNDESPOST. IN A COVER LETTER TO THIS
MEMORANDUM, THE AMBASSADOR SAID HE WOULD BE MOST
APPRECIATIVE OF ANYTHING WHICH THE DEFENSE MINISTRY
COULD DO TO HELP BRING ABOUT A MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY

RESOLUTION OF THESE DIFFICULTIES.

2. ON THE SAME DAY, EMBOFF LEFT A COPY OF THE ABOVE-MENTIONED MEMORANDUM WITH GENERAL WOLFGANG ALTENBURG, HEAD OF THE DEFENSE MINISTRY'S OFFICE OF POLITICAL/MILITARY AFFAIRS. EMBOFF IMPRESSED UPON ALTENBURG THE IMPORTANCE WHICH THE US GOVERNMENT ATTACHES TO A REASONABLE AND PROMPT RESOLUTION OF THESE PROBLEMS.

3. ALTENBURG TOLD EMBOFF THAT IN AN APRIL 14 MEETING OF THE FEDERAL SECURITY COUNCIL, DEFENSE MINISTER APEL HAD INFORMED CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT OF THE PROBLEMS WHICH US FORCES ARE ENCOUNTERING WITH THE BUNDESPOST AND HAD EMPHASIZED THE NEED FOR THE FRG TO CONSIDER THESE PROBLEMS IN A POLITICAL AND DEFENSE-RELATED CONTEXT RATHER THAN IN A PURELY ECONOMIC ONE. ALTENBURG SAID THAT BOTH THE CHANCELLOR AND THE BUNDESPOST MINISTER (KURT GSCHIEDLE) HAD TAKEN DUE NOTE OF APEL'S PRESENTATION.

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R 051950Z MAY 78
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 08415

4. GENERAL ALTENBURG SAID HE WOULD RECOMMEND TO HIS SUPERIORS THAT AN OBSERVER FROM THE DEFENSE MINISTRY ATTEND THE FORTHCOMING MEETINGS OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FOREIGN OFFICE, THE BUNDESPOST MINISTRY, THE BUNDESPOST, AND THE EMBASSIES AND FORCES OF THE SENDING STATES ON THESE PROBLEMS. ALTENBURG INDICATED THAT THE OBSERVER MIGHT SPEAK OUT AT THE MEETINGS, AS APPROPRIATE, REGARDING THE IMPORTANCE OF CONSIDERING THE ISSUES IN A DEFENSE CONTEXT AND OF SEEKING AN EARLY AND MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY SOLUTION.

5. COMMENT: THE FACT THAT MINISTER APEL RAISED THESE PROBLEMS WITH THE CHANCELLOR, IN THE PRESENCE OF THE BUNDESPOST MINISTER, IS ENCOURAGING. (THIS ACTION WAS PRESUMABLY A DIRECT RESULT OF REPRESENTATIONS MADE TO CONFIDENTIAL

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APEL BY SECRETARY BROWN AND MEMBERS OF HIS PARTY THE PREVIOUS DAY - APRIL 13.) ALSO, WE BELIEVE THAT DEFENSE MINISTRY INVOLVEMENT IN THE FORTHCOMING MEETINGS, IF ONLY AS AN OBSERVER, WOULD BE A POSITIVE FACTOR. UNLIKE THE BUNDESPOST, THE DEFENSE MINISTRY HAS A NATURAL TENDENCY TO CONSIDER THE ISSUES IN A MUTUAL DEFENSE CONTEXT AND WILL THEREFORE PRESUMABLY BE MORE RECEPTIVE TO THE US LINE OF ARGUMENTATION THAN IS THE BUNDESPOST.

6. WE ARE ALSO PROVIDING COPIES OF THE MEMORANDUM MENTIONED IN PARA ONE ABOVE TO DR. ELIAS, STATE SECRETARY IN THE BUNDESPOST MINISTRY, TO DR. FREDO DANNENBRING, HEAD OF NATO AFFAIRS IN THE FOREIGN OFFICE AND TO DR. PETER CORTERIER, AN SPD MEMBER OF THE BUNDESTAG WITH WHOM THE PROBLEMS WITH THE BUNDESPOST WERE RAISED DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO WASHINGTON.

7. WE WOULD HOPE THAT THESE VARIOUS DEMARCHES, AND THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE, MAY CREATE AN ATMOSPHERE MORE CONDUCIVE TO A SATISFACTORY RESOLUTION OF OUR PROBLEMS WITH THE BUNDESPOST.
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Message Attributes

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